

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 05532 031041Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00
SY-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 /119 W
-----084479 031628Z /50

R 030851Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6733
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
MAC SCOTT AF BASE ILLINOIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 05532

ALSO DEPT PASS ALL ASIAN POSTS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

MAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, PINT, JA
SUBJECT: POLITICAL IMPACT OF NARITA

REF: (A) TOKYO 4941, (B) TOKYO 5237

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 05532 031041Z

SUMMARY: AMIDST CONTINUING TERRORIST HARASSMENT AND
GOVERNMENT PLANNING TO TIGHTEN SECURITY AT NARITA AIRPORT,
GOJ ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HAS DECIDED TO SET NEW
OPENING CEREMONIES FOR MAY 18, AND START OF OPERATIONS
FOR MAY 21.

1. PRESS APRIL 3 REPORTED GOJ HAS DECIDED TO HOLD OPENING

CEREMONIES FOR NARITA AIRPORT MAY 18, AND BEGIN FLIGHT OPERATIONS MAY 21. DAMAGE TO AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER (REFTELS) WILL REPORTEDLY BE REPAIRED BY MID-APRIL, BUT TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY AND NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY (NPA) HAVE COUNSELED DELAYING OPENING UNTIL MID-MAY IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH BETTER SECURITY IN NARITA AREA. GOJ HAS SEPARATED OPENING CEREMONIES AND COMMENCEMENT OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON BOTH DATES AND MAKE WORK OF POLICE GUARDING AIRPORT AND ITS ACCESS ROUTES EASIER.

2. WHILE CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH REMAINING DISSIDENT FARMERS (REFTEL B), GOJ WILL MOVE IN NEXT FEW WEEKS TO TEAR DOWN REMAINING OPPOSITION GROUP SHELTERS IN OPEN FIELDS SURROUNDING RUNWAYS, AND SEEK TO ESTABLISH SECURE PERIMETER AROUND AIRPORT. TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, NPA IS PLANNING TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL 1,500-MAN UNIT TRAINED IN RIOT CONTROL AND ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, GOJ HAS NOT YET REQUESTED ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT TERRORIST GROUPS.

3. MEANWHILE, ANTI-NARITA GROUPS STAGED "VICTORY" RALLY APRIL 2 IN NARITA CITY, WHERE APPROXIMATELY 7,000 AIRPORT FOES HEARD THEIR LEADERS VOW TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE UNTIL NEW AIRPORT DESTROYED. IN WHAT MAY BE TASTE OF HARASSMENT TO COME, ONE OF AIRPORT HOTELS WAS FIREBOMBED (ALTHOUGH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 05532 031041Z

DAMAGE WAS LIMITED) ON MARCH 30, AND TELEPHONE LINES TO NARITA WERE FOUND CUT APRIL 1.

4. COMMENT: MORNING EDITION ASAHI APRIL 3 CARRIED BRIEF REPORT OF NEW YORK TIMES DISPATCH FROM TOKYO WHICH CLAIMED THAT PRIMIN FUKUDA HAD LOST SUFFICIENT PRESTIGE AS RESULT OF NARITA INCIDENT TO MAKE HIS RETIREMENT AT DECEMBER'S LDP PARTY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LIKELY. WE GATHER THAT OTHER US PAPERS AND NEWS MAGAZINES HAVE CARRIED SPECULATION ALONG SIMILAR LINES. WITHOUT UNDERESTIMATING THE EMBARRASSMENT OF GOJ AS WHOLE, AND POLICE IN PARTICULAR, AT BEING FORCED TO POSTPONE AIRPORT OPENING, AND WITHOUT DISMISSING REAL POSSIBILITY OF NARITA BECOMING GRAVE CRISIS FOR GOJ IF TERRORISM CONTINUES UNCHECKED, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT NARITA HAS SEVERELY DAMAGED FUKUDA POLITICALLY. PUBLIC INDIGNATION HAS GENERALLY BEEN AIMED MORE AT GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS AS GROUP FOR FAILING TO OVERCOME LOCAL OPPOSITION BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND POLICE FOR MUDDLING AIRPORT SECURITY. IF AIRPORT PROBLEMS CONTINUE, AND ESPECIALLY IF OPENING IS AGAIN DELAYED, DOUBTS ABOUT FUKUDA'S LEADERSHIP COULD SURFACE, BUT AT THIS POINT, NARITA DOES NOT APPEAR TO POSE DIRECT

THREAT TO PRIMIN'S POLITICAL FUTURE. MANSFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ALL ASIAN POSTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO05532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780143-0927
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780497/aaaadfdt.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: efc409b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 4941, 78 TOKYO 5237
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3088549
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL IMPACT OF NARITA
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, PINT, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/efc409b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014